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VOL. 76 - No. 4

### **FEBRUARY 22, 2015**

**ENGLISH VERSION** 

### A Special Moleben Prayer and Healing Service before a Relic of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, CSsR will be held Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 pm in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Pa.-- On Sunday, March 22 at 4 p.m. a special moleben prayer and healing service before a relic of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, C.Ss.R., will be led by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka at the golden domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 830 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Metropolitan Soroka will also bless a newly commissioned icon of Blessed Bishop Charnetsky, which will be available with the relic for prayer and veneration.

During the service the faithful will be anointed with the holy oil of healing. Blessed Bishop-Martyr Charnetsky, known as "the healer of souls" was beatified by St. John Paul II on June 27, 2001 in Lviv, Ukraine. Many personal testimonies are recorded of miraculous healings through his intercession. All the faithful are invited and encouraged to attend these services and to bring their intentions for healing through the intercession of Blessed Bishop Mykola.

Blessed Mykola, born on September 14, 1884 in the village of Semakivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, was ordained to the priesthood in 1909, and earning a doctorate in dogmatic theology from Rome, he was appointed spiritual director and professor at the seminary in Ivano-Frankivsk.

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**Bishop-Martyr Mykola** Charnetsky, CSsR

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On February 2, 1931, he was ordained to the episcopacy by Bishop Hryhorii Khomyshyn.

He was arrested by the NKVD, the secret police of Josef Stalin on April 11, 1945 and sentenced to six years of hard labor in Siberia.

According to official records, he underwent 600 hour of interrogation and torture and spent time in 30 different prisons and camps.

Terminally ill, in 1956, he was permitted to return to western Ukraine, where he secretly continued to fulfill his episcopal obligations in underground church of the catacombs.

In the midst of the cruelty and oppression which he suffered in imprisonment and in exile, he was distinguished for his evangelical patience, gentleness and limitless goodness and holiness. During his lifetime he was considered by the faithful, a holy man. As a consequence of his sufferings, he died a martyr for the faith on April 2, 1959 in Lviv, and is known as "the healer of souls' by the faithful.



## Who was Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, CSs.R?

Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, C.Ss.R, known as "the healer of souls" was beatified by St. John Paul II on June 27, 2001 in Lviv, Ukraine, and is commemorated by the church on June 27.

Blessed Mykola, born on September 14, 1884 in the village of Semakivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, was ordained to the priesthood in 1909, and earning a doctorate in dogmatic theology from Rome, he was appointed spiritual director and professor at the seminary in Ivano-Frankivsk.

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With the moleben with the relic and icon of the Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky," the healer of souls," in the golden domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 4 p.m. the faithful will have an opportunity to receive the blessings of this act of pious devotion and veneration as well as the blessings of healing through the anointing and through their intercessory prayers to Bishop Mykola.



# What are relics and why does the church encourage veneration of relics?

Relics are physical objects that have a direct association with the saints or with Our Lord. They are usually broken down into three classes. First class relics are the body or fragments of the body of a saint, such as pieces of bone or flesh. Second class relics are something that a saint personally owned, such as a shirt or book (or fragments of those items). Third class relics are those items that a saint touched or that have been touched to a first, second, or another third class relic of a saint.

The veneration of relics is an ancient custom dating from the reverence shown at the graves of the martyrs even in the time of the apostles. Miracles have been worked by God in association with relics – "...not that some magical power existed in them, but just as God's work was done through the lives of [holy people], so did His work continue after their deaths. Likewise, just as [others] were drawn closer to God through the lives of [holy people], so did they (even if through their remains) inspire others to draw closer even after their deaths. This perspective provides the Church's understanding of relics." (Fr. W. Saunders, "Keeping Relics in Perspective", © 2003 Arlington Catholic Herald)

The veneration of relics is a communion with the heroes of our Christian faith, asking for their powerful intercession. Many people have reported outstanding blessings and conversions through this ministry, and many have reported healings. Attendees are encouraged to bring their articles of devotion and pictures of ill friends/family members which may be touched to the reliquaries as a means of intercessory prayer."

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## First Sunday of the Great Lent - February 22, 2015



The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (Jn. 1, 43-51)

Time out! Time for a pause in the action. Time to reconsider strategy, regain composure. Holy things are things set apart for God's purposes. Lent is a Holy Time Out - a chunk of time set apart, for us to reconsider our strategy of life, to give serious time and attention to how our game-plan connects with God's purposes. It is a time to help us deepen our relationship with God so that other relationships and work and play are more permeated by our relationship with God - our faith - everyday. We do this, of course, throughout the year, through regular worship and personal prayer and reflection.

But Lent invites us to a Holy Timeout, so we can focus on it more, take it to another level. A Time Out that affects our attitudes more than our schedules. A Holy Time Out is a time to not just talk about forgiveness, but to recognize how much God has forgiven us and to examine our lives for relationships that need to be repaired, and grudges that need to be given up, and regrets that need to be offered in sorrow to God - and do what needs to be done.

Lent is a time to not just ask for God to guide us on our way but to look at the direction of our life and consider whether it is going God's way. To look at all aspects of our life and see what might need to change. A Time Out from wanting a deeper faith, better acquaintance with the Bible, a closer relationship with God, and a Time In for doing something about it - doing a specific thing for the duration of the lenten journey. Which is long enough to get you past the novelty stage and into serous work, and short enough that you can make the commitment without it taking over your life. Maybe.

Lent is a time for serious exploration, questioning, arappling with issues and daily habits of living, so that when we come to Holy Week and then Easter - to the stories Jesus' arguments of with his opponents, his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, his aloneness on the cross, and his glorious new life with God on the third day - we have been through our own time of struggle to live faithfully amid those who think we're wrong, stupid or crazy. We have been through our own doubt and

failure and new life in our faith life, which help us accept and even give thanks for other struggles and doubts and failures - and new chances - we've experienced. Then we enter into the stories of Holy Week in a more personal way, and celebrate the amazement of Easter with full-throated joy and tears running down our cheeks.

The invitation to the Holy Time Out of Lent takes us seriously as Christians, as followers of Jesus, as pilgrims on a life journey, for it says there is more to be learned but it's going to take some effort, there is more to be asked of us, but we need some preparation, there is a God who wants you as close companion but it's not going to just happen

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### First Sunday of the Great Lent - February 22, 2015

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- you have to make yourself available.

Whenever it was in school or in life that you finally had to stop coasting and really buckle down. that's what Lent is. And it has the same rewards of tackling something demanding and finding you can do it, and so knowing both yourself and your world much better. But, in addition, strengthening your faith, and coming closer to God and to God's people has a wondrous. luminous quality that cannot be described.

It's not easy to take even a Holy Time Out in full and busy lives. So accept the invitation to Lent, but modestly. In what you want to explore or try, choose a small piece, a practice that you can keep on with. It may be prayer, or service to others, or genuine relaxation to appreciate this awesome creation, or bible reading, or journaling, or worship, or walks.

Time Outs in games or the workday or with children are not necessarily quiet times, but in any of the adventures of a Holy Time Out silence is very helpful. When Jesus talked about praying in secret, giving alms in secret, fasting in secret, he was saving, no words are needed. God knows. So get out of noise as much as possible. If you have television, radio, CD's going in the house, for company or from habit, turn them off for some time each day. If you have one going in the car, try some time with it off. If you have kids in the car with you, get them to listen to silence - and then talk together about what each one heard.

Awav from artificial noise listen to the sounds of creation: birds, wind, rain. Sounds surrounded by silence. It's easier to breathe, it's easier to relax; your blood pressure may well ao down. You can hear yourself think. You can hear yourself wonder about God and the weird way the world works, and forgiveness and work and people. Without the distraction of music and other voices, you can have some serious conversation with yourself - a thing we all need to do. In the silence we can hear the voices of the world calling out in need, in anger, in frustration, in pain.

With more silence and less external noise, we often become more aware of the chatter inside our own heads that makes it hard to hear the silence. Even in the conversations we need to have with ourselves. I have found that I let that ao on and on, around in circles, repeating itself, continuing way beyond any insight or resolution I may have received.

But it's hard to get those voices to shut up. For many of us something inside is a little scared of silence, and keeps bringing up things even when we want to be still. I've found it doesn't do any good to get mad at your own chatter. Just accept it, smile benignly, and let it pass on - so you can enjoy the silence. That is easier said than done. Often, as one thing goes, another pops up. When that one goes, another slides in. It takes practice to be silent. Just keep on trying and be grateful for the bits of silence you're blessed with, for it is in the silence that we come closest to God.

One wise man, very close to the Presence of God, said with a smile, "The intellect is jealous of the good stuff and wants to get in on it." The good stuff being the communication with God that happens in the silence, without words.

In the beginning, before God spoke "Let there be light" there was a vast silence. And after God spoke there was silence. In the universe much more than our noises or our words or our moans. there is silence. In silence God spoke the word that created you, and me. Meister Eckhart, 13th century Christian mystic and teacher who lived very much in the Presence of God, said, "There is nothing in the universe that so much resembles God as silence."

Ironically, one could say much more about silence. Let it just be - this Time Out of Lent - holy and silent.



## Faith and the Family

Sponsored by:

The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

*The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great* 

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

The Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God

### SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2015

at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church 217 President Street, Passaic, New Jersey

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2015

at Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church 1564 Allentown Road, Lansdale, Pennsylvania



Come gather with women of the Archeparchy to pray, reflect and grow spiritually while being inspired to contribute actively to the spiritual development of your family members and fellow parishioners. Our theme is structured in conjunction with the *Vibrant Parish* initiatives of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and to complement this year's *World Meeting of Families* to be held in Philadelphia September 22-27, 2015. Sister Natalya Stoczanyn, SSMI, our presenter, will offer practical ideas and traditions that can nourish faith within families.

The day begins with Divine Liturgy at 11:00 a.m. Lunch follows at noon. The Program, Faith and the Family begins at 1:00 p.m. and will conclude at 4:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION				
Suggested Donation:	I will attend Women's Day on	□ <u>MARCH 1</u> in Passaic, NJ	MARCH 8 in Lansdale, PA	
\$10 to Cover the Cost of Lunch		Name		
Please Make		Address		
Checks Payable to: <i>Ukrainian</i>	City	State	ZIP	
Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia	Email		Phone	
MAIL REGISTRATI		Parish		

Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM 710 Fox Chase Road, Fox Chase Manor, Pennsylvania 19046



## 20th Anniversary of Performing Arts at Assumption Catholic School Show, Perth Amboy

#### **By: Miss Anna Lawrence**



Professional musicians know the story all too well. If it didn't happen to them, it probably happened to a colleague. When the school budget goes up on the chopping block, the arts department is usually one of the first groups to feel the cuts. Music, art and theater programs are always one of the first to go, deemed the least important of all the academic fields. But not at Assumption Catholic School (ACS). For 20 years now, the school activities after have been going strong at ACS, and the halls are

alive with the sounds of budding thespians and musicians alike. Since the first meeting of the alee club on Monday, February 6, 1995 to today, our after school programs have grown to include drama for both the 3rd - 5th and 6th - 8th grade levels, and the unique sounding chimetteers for the 6th -8th graders as well. With the popularity of singing ever growing, glee club, which was originally open to all students in 3rd grade or older, was split into two groups, with the middle grades taking

over glee club while the show choir would be open for our older students. Today, these clubs are populated by 44 percent of all eligible students.

To celebrate 20 years of after school programs, a show was put together that revisited the theme of the very first glee club show, songs from Annie and Oliver. This year, over 50 students from our after school groups got in on the act and shared their talents in song and in skits. Many of those students are

actually in more than one performing group, but made their transitions from one scene to the next with ease. Drama students, under the direction of Mrs. Pickering, performed skits written by themselves or by Mrs. Lawrence. The chimetteers performed two songs arranged by Miss Lawrence - one from each Broadway musical, and the glee club and show choir staged some of the more memorable sonas from the two shows, "lt's Hard а

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## 20th Anniversary of Performing Arts at Assumption Catholic School Show, Perth Amboy

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Knock Life" and "You're Never Fully Dressed without a Smile" from Annie, "Food, Glorious Food" and "Who Will Buy?" from Oliver.

Despite the cold and icy conditions the night of the show, the students performed to a full house. Over 100 parents, grandparents, siblings and friends came to enjoy the show, which was also attended by our ever supportive Father Ivan, our Missionary Sisters, and our principal, Mr. Szpyhulsky. Our students - not just our performers, but all of our students are supported by not just our priest, principal, nuns and teachers, but by so many parents, friends, and parishioners as well, many of whom were not even in attendance.

While admission to the show was free, the teachers who run the performing arts groups, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Pickerina and Miss Lawrence, were asking for donations for music and drama supplies for the students. On the shopping list - 60 recorders for music class, props and accessories, and a new chimes set,

which was the big ticket item at a whopping \$840. Money from the recent spirit wear sale also went towards this goal. Between the donations collected at the show and also from parishioners of Assumption Church weekend. the same the money from the spirit wear sale, and а generous donation from the FSA, not only our fundraising was goal of \$1,240 met, it was exceeded. Thanks to the generosity of our friends, family and parishioners, we raised just over \$1,500. As Mrs. Lawrence said, "I'm just overwhelmed," and it's true. In a time where the arts are often left out in the cold, the family of Assumption Catholic School and Church are welcoming the arts in with warm, open arms and saying, no, the arts are here to stay. Immediately, recorders, recorder music, storage bins, and the new chimes are going to be ordered. After that the teachers will then sit down and do some research to see how best to spend the rest of the money.



The ACS chimetteers play the chimes.



Performing a scene from "Annie."



Performing a scene from "Oliver."

### **FEBRUARY 22, 2015**

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## Catholic Schools Week Volleyball Game in Perth Amboy

On Friday, February 6, 2015 the laughter and competition were key factors in bringing Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy, NJ together. The Class of 2015 waited throughout the pep rally for their chance to represent ACS students in a volleyball game against the teachers and administration. The competing eighth grade students were completely confident that they would be THE class to finally beat the undefeated faculty/administration players. Student observers cheered and screamed for both sides. The game went back and forth until second grade teacher, Miss Giordano broke it open with 3 unanswered points for the faculty! The final score left the Class of 2016 dreaming about next year. Maybe then the teachers and administration would be defeated. Final score: Teachers/ Administration 15 - Students 11.



Rev. Ivan Turyk played on the Teacher/Administration Team during the Volleyball Game.





## Celebration of Catholic Schools Week at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School - Passaic, NJ

The National Catholic Schools Week, "Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service," focused on the value that Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to the Catholic Church, local communities and the nation.

First of all, Catholic schools are communities of faith, where we proudly teach students about God. Catholic school students openly pray and worship God on a daily basis. Classroom prayers and regular Divine Liturgy form the minds, hearts



Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, Sr. Eliane Ilnitski, S.S.M.I. and Sister Cecelia Sworin, S.S.M.I. pose among staff and students of the school.

and souls of students, helping them to live as committed Christian disciples.

The second characteristic from the theme of National Catholic Schools Week is that Catholic schools are communities of knowledge. As Catholics, we believe that there is no conflict between faith and knowledge. The Catholic intellectual tradition shows us that faith and knowledge each illuminate the other and allow us to pursue truth and reason without fear, because God is the source of all knowledge and truth. Catholic schools educate the whole child, mind, spirit and body.

Catholic schools are communities of faith, knowledge and most importantly, service. Service is the key to the Christian life, because when Jesus called the disciples, he immediately gave them work to do - fishing for people - and an example to follow - he went about Galilee teaching, preaching and healing. Service is an expression of love and care, and service is an integral part of the life of our school.

Grade 7 - Miss Hruscik and her students share with us some of their comments about Catholic School Week (CSW):

- "This was my first Catholic Schools Week, and I was excited for it. I was so happy to be able to spend the afternoons with the whole school enjoying fun activities! Planning a school-wide "Minute to Win It" event took a lot of planning, but it was worth it to see how much fun that the kids were having. The event was special because the kids were so excited, having fun, and working together! I'm so happy to be a part of a special school that is full of so much love and friendship! Now, I can't wait until the next Catholic Schools Week!"

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### Celebration of Catholic Schools Week at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School - Passaic, NJ (continued from previous page)

- "Catholic schools week was fun because I got to be with friends and participate in fun activities. Although we missed two of the activities it still was fun being on the "game show" "Minute to Win It" and being able to pet a wolf! The activities were fun and you could tell the time and effort the teachers and principal put into organizing the activities. It was a very fun Catholic Schools Week and I thank all the people who took the time to set up the events."



- "CSW is something I look forward to every year. I enjoy getting to have fun with not just my friends but also with the kids I do not normally talk to. I appreciate all the hard work the teachers put in to this week so the students can have a blast. Catholic Schools Week is a great time to cheer on others, get comfortable, and even hang out with some exotic animals."

- "CSW was amazing. I thank many people, teachers, and students for their generosity to make the activities so much fun! I was really eager, excited, and nervous for it. I thought that it was going to be fun, but the week was more amazing than I imagined. To me, Catholic Schools Week means having fun, being thankful for everything we have, and to unite with the school."



"Socks for Ukrainian Soldiers" Collection

As part of Catholic Schools Week and in keeping with the theme "Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service," the students of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic, NJ held a "Socks for Ukrainian Soldiers" drive. They collected 419 pairs of socks, 50 hats, and 19 pairs of gloves, which will be sent

to Ukraine by the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna (OOL) as part of their "Zihriy Heroya" warm clothing drive. Along with the warm items, the students send their prayers for the soldiers and their families.

Our CSW day was filled with activities as: Pajama and story day. Bring a friend for hot chocolate and desert. Minute to Win It. Movie day with socks, hats and gloves drive to the Ukrainian Soldiers and to end our week a Family Bingo Night.

### For more pictures visit our school website www.stnicholaschool.com



Family Bingo Night





## L.U.C. ANNOUNCES THEME OF THE 2015 ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT – FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Once again the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America (L.U.C.) sponsors a Lenten (Great Fast) Retreat for all faithful of the byzantine catholic community. This year the retreat will be held March 20-22 at St. Mary's Villa Retreat Center, Sloatsburg, NY. Everyone is invited to participate in this retreat; the program is conducted in English.

The Journey to Pascha (Easter) through the Great Fast, is a special time in our Liturgical year cycle for reflection, fasting, prayer and renewal; a time to 'escape' from the daily routine for a weekend to refresh oneself spiritually and physically.





Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM

of this "fellowship" from several perspectives. As Fr. Jerome relates, this theme impels us to open our Bibles (be sure to bring yours, or one will be provided) as we also open the Divine Liturgy for deeper, prayerful awareness and understanding.

The program begins with a conference at 7:00pm on Friday evening March 20th, and concludes with Lunch on Sunday March 22nd. Ample time is provided for individual reflection, mediation, fellowship,



and for the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) in preparation for Pascha (Easter).

Don't miss this opportunity to prepare yourself for the most joyous day on the Christian calendar surrounded by the spacious, serene, lovely grounds of St. Mary's Villa. The Retreat Center houses a fine chapel designed in the Byzantine style, an outdoor Lourdes grotto, adjacent outdoor Stations of the Cross, and a meditation pool and garden with walking trails. It is our hope you will be inspired to come and join others in prayer and "fellowship". And don't come alone, bring a friend!

For questions, registration forms, or more information please contact 201-843-3960 or Email mc.hrubec@ att.net or visit the LUCofAmerica Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/LUCofAmerica







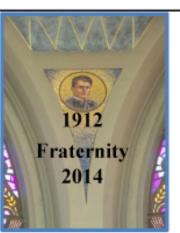
## THE PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION

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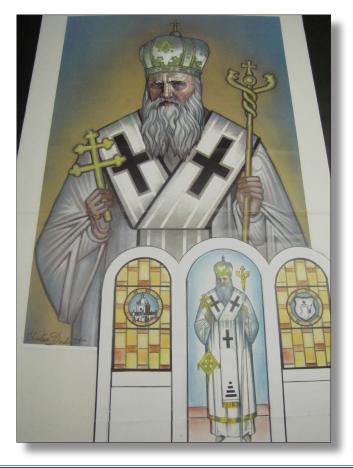


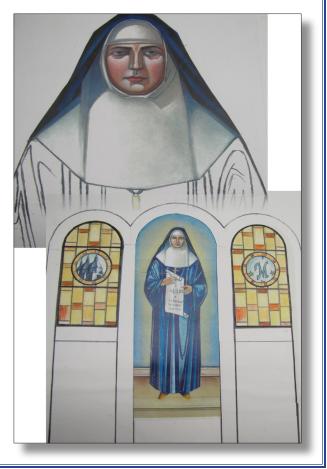
## NEW MOSAICS OF VENERABLE METROPOLITAN ANDREY SHEPTYTSKY AND BLESSED JOSAPHATA HORDASHEVSKA, SSMI FOR CATHEDRAL

Two full sized mosaics of Venerable Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska, SSMI will be installed in our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia in Spring, 2015. The mosaics will include a reliquary for relics of both Metropolitan Sheptytsky and Blessed Josaphata for veneration by all.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is to visit Philadelphia in September, 2015. He has been invited to include a visit to our Cathedral during his short two day visit. In hopeful anticipation of such a visit, we have commissioned these mosaics for the Holy Father to bless. Please pray for this!

The mosaics have been prepared by our world renowned iconographer who has written most of the Cathedral's iconography, Christine Dochwat. The mosaics are being fabricated in Italy by the same firm which has done previous art work in our Cathedral. The cost for each will be approximately \$ 35,000, which is very reasonable for such a significant project. Financial donations are invited from individuals and parishes for this project. Perhaps someone or a group may wish to fund one or both mosaics in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Please remember the power of the intercession of the saints for our needs! Thank you for your anticipated assistance. Please send donations to Archbishop's Chancery, 827 N Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. God bless you!







## NEW BELL TOWER FOR CATHEDRAL

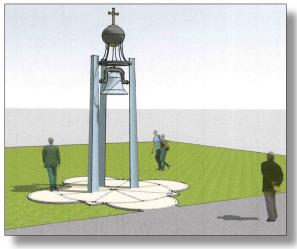
The original Cathedral bell named "Stefan" in testimony to our first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop for all Eastern Catholics in USA, the Most Rev. Stephen Soter Ortynsky, OSBM, needs to be relocated from its present location.

A new bell tower of our Cathedral is planned to accommodate the bell, to be located to the right of our Cathedral.

We welcome your financial donation for this memorial to the founding bishop, clergy, religious and faithful. It is an expression of our heartfelt appreciation for their planting the seeds of faith and the roots of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA.

Please help us to meet the costs by sending a donation to the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, 827 N Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Your help is needed and appreciated. God bless you richly as you share in celebrating gratitude for our founders.





## Maintenance Technician Philadelphia, PA

Ascension Manor Apartments is seeking qualified candidates for a Full Time Maintenance Technician. Candidates must be able to complete electrical, plumbing and carpentry repairs, assist in all aspects of refurbishing vacant units and assist with custodial work. Prior completion of college courses or equivalent trade-related courses and the ability to speak multiple languages is a plus. Fax resume to (215)922-3735. EQE



**Ascension Manor** 





## St. Joseph's ... Now is the Moment

### by: Sr. Michele, SSMI, Administrator

Many of you like myself, have no memory of the year 1941; others may have very vague memories, too long ago to remember! It was a year... Franklin D. Roosevelt was President of the US. and Pope Pius XII was the ruling pontiff. Cheerios cereal was introduced by General Mills and the first jeep vehicle was invented. Pearl Harbor was bombed and it was World War II – just to highlight a few events from then.

The Sisters Servants (already had purchased portions of land in Sloatsburg) renovated the Hamilton Morgan stables into what is now St. Joseph's Adult Care Home. Seventy-three years the home has

welcomed elderly men and women, elderly priests and sisters under their care. The vision and spirit of the first Sister Servant, Josaphata Hordashevska knew what the needs of her people were whether it be in Ukraine or throughout the world where her sisters live. That "flame" has burned throughout the years in every sister who has ministered to the elderly in the home, who have strived to be the strength and hope of tomorrow.

The challenges of yesterday are no different than today. The care for our elderly is crucial and will always be a priority. Unfortunately the means are not always available to all. We have seen elderly living longer and with the hope of living on their own. Some have that luxury while others do not.

We, Sisters Servants, with much prayer, research and deliberation are going forward to meet the needs of the infirmed and elderly in our society. We are honored and humbled to share this joy with you... you who one day may truly benefit from this venture!

Our endeavor is two-fold. One, we have begun the process of enhancing our NY state license to Assisted Living. Designated beds will be for this purpose of allowing the elderly as they age and are more infirmed to remain in our care – to move gracefully from one level of care to another in their same environment where they have grown to call home. Our second endeavor, I believe more challenging is to build a wing, an addition to the existing building with additional rooms making it a 50 bed capacity. The addition will allow private bath in each room, sitting parlor for resident's guests, office, storage areas, mini kitchen and laundry for the section, ample parking and garden area. An added treat will be a whirlpool room for those special times of comfort.

Clark Patterson Lee, Architects from New Windsor, NY have been our choice to meet this 5 million dollar project. By the grace of God and your help we will go forward committing ourselves to not only the present but to the future generations of elderly who come under our care. Approximately 125 thousand dollars has already been raised.

Our next issue will provide you our readers with drawings, ways that even you may contribute to this project as the new wing will have a memorial wall of donors.



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## Proud to be Ukrainian Catholic but don't expect me in Church

Sunday, 08 February 2015

Research confirms what we already know. We have many who say that they belong to our church but that does not mean that they feel that they should actually go to the church. We also know that these people have great difficulties describing or explaining the church, the sacraments, salvation, and the role of the priest, the bishop, or the pope. They often disagree with what they feel the church says about moral issues but they have a very strong concern for individual freedom, human rights, tolerance and acceptance of different and various life styles. This may not always be connected with religious belief.

Yes! We all know that this is what the situation is. The better question now is what are we going to do about it?

Christianity and our church are not without its positives and opportunities. It is helpful to know the problem. Those who want to change the Church for the better must commit themselves to a definite plan and vision.



Bishop Peter Stasiuk

So what should the Ukrainian Catholic Church do? Be it as it may, no one can really live without God. Stressing the unconditional love of God for all of us is vital. Jesus did definitely promise that He can give us a fulfilling life. This is what the church's mission is and we must preach it. Secular life leads to a fundamental unhappiness. The church through Jesus Christ can change a person's life.

This can only happen in each person's life through a personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus is alive and present in the world. Our salvation depends on our ability to have a relationship with Jesus. Catholic teaching has a very unique communal nature. We meet God in and through the church.

Youth have heard about the sacraments. They recognize that these moments of contact with Jesus are vital. (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Marriage etc.). The church must redouble its effort to bring this to the relevance of each member.

The lack of a constant, real, and meaningful relationship with this church hurts a Christian's chance to receive the strength and grace which one needs to travel towards the spiritual reward one needs and expects.

The role of the church is less about authority and tradition than it is about the church's ability to witness the love and life of Christ – the community. Young people today want and need guidance but only if it is presented in a meaningful way.

There is much to be admired about the culture we live in. Jesus surely would have used the positives of today's society to inspire new members to His Church!

Everybody knows that short comings exist in our world. Young people are also ready to understand and to try to figure out that, despite the problems and the lack of connection with the Divine, the journey to the sacred can and should proceed. The Ukrainian Catholic Church is relevant in today's world.

Article by Bishop Peter Stasiuk

http://news.ugcc.ua FEBRUARY 22, 2015



## His Beatitude Sviatoslav: "Without a fatherly hug, it's hard to live and to love"

Monday, 09 February 2015

entering the time In Great Lent, it is of important to feel that we need these Fatherly hugs. Without them, it is difficult to live, to love. Without them, it is hard to be oneself. During the sermon. Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, in the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrected Christ. talked about this on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

The Prelate noted that today the Church is living through, perhaps one of its most famous pages of Christ's Gospel, known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. "In this parable there is one aesture which can be perceived as the key to this family drama: a father and his two sons -- a gesture which surprises and inspires at the same time. This aesture is the fatherly embrace. Researchers of the Holy Scripture say that the embrace of the father is the best gesture which shows us who Our Heavenly Father is. It shows us what went on in the heart of the father, who first lost one son, and then the other," stated the preacher.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav believes that these "embraces of the father are the moment when the son transforms himself from a servant to a master, because he receives a ring."

That son, he says, who lost a father and never expected to be embraced by him, once more feels his dignity as a son. And again, he receives the whole family. The father himself says: My son died and lives again. Where? In the embrace of his father. He was lost and he is found. When? In the embrace of his father. The father offers the older son the same kind of embrace. However, unfortunately, the older son does not hurry into the father's embrace.

"We do not know how this story ends," continued His Beatitude Sviatoslav -- did the older son resurface or not. Because this gesture was probably the greatest feeling of love in our life. When truly crying, we began to laugh. Anxiety gets transformed into certainty. When I was lost, I felt that father and mother were the ones, who found me and protected me."

Evangelist Luke, noted the speaker, tells us today that our father, who opens his embrace is our God. His embraces are open to all of us. He is the one who first tries to meet us. "How often do we feel lost in life, abandoned, as if the whole world has forgotten about us. And, perhaps, at that moment we feel that the one who embraces us is our God. In His embrace we revive, in His embrace we find ourselves, receive a certainty about tomorrow. Christ's Church teaches us, that that moment in which we feel that God embraces us," -- that is the Holy Sacrament of Forgiveness. When we, prodigal sons and dauahters, with a bowed head come to God, acknowledging our sins. And we always hear: "your sins are forgiven you," said the Church Head.

"Fatherly embraces ---hurry to discover God for me." "How inspiring and life-going do these words sound today. Because



sometimes we have the impression that before us, before all Ukraine, someone opens their embrace, but they prove to be deadly. Someone closes their embrace, deeming us undignified to sit at their banquet table. And how important it is for us to understand that all those embraces about which we know, do not rescue, do not save..." UGCC Prelate asks us to consider.

"May we all today, our Ukraine, feel in the embrace of our God. In an embrace that provides real certainty and strength, that returns dignity, provides life. Let us be sure that our Heavenly Father will never close those embraces to us," wished His Beatitude Svitoslav.

UGCC Department of Information

Adapted from the article on: http://news.ugcc.ua



## Ukrainian Ambassador Tetyana Izhevska discussed latest developments in Donbas with head of the Holy See Foreign Department

10 February 2015



Ukrainian Ambassador to the Holy See Tetiana Izhevska met with the newly appointed Secretary for International Relations of the Holy See Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher.

During the meeting the sides discussed the latest developments in Donbas, issues of bilateral cooperation, ways of interaction within international organizations, as well as the upcoming visit to the Vatican of the Catholic Bishops of Eastern and Western rites from Ukraine, which will take place from 16 to 21 February 2015.

The Ambassador of Ukraine expressed gratitude to the Holy See by constant appeals for peace in Ukraine, support for territorial integrity and prayers for those who suffer as a result of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. "The symbol of this support of the Holy See for thousands of Ukrainian became the original Image of Jesus Christ from Pope Francis' personal sacristy, which stays in Ukraine these days," said Tetiana Izhevska.

The Ambassador informed the newly appointed Secretary for International Relations on the existing cases of illegal detention of citizens of Ukraine in the occupied territories and in Russian prisons and asked for assistance.

The sides also exchanged views on the prospects of interfaith dialogue in Ukraine and the situation of minorities in the context of current events, as reported by the Embassy of Ukraine to the Holy See.

http://risu.org.ua

## UGCC Synod of Bishops and RCC Bishops in Ukraine make visit to Vatican

16 February 2015

On February 16-21, the UGCC bishops led by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Patriarch of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, visited Rome for the purpose of pilgrimage to the tombs of the Apostles.

The visit of hierarchy of the UGCC to the Eternal City included a separate audience with the Holy Father, and a tour of various ministries dicasteries in Vatican. In addition, the Ukrainian bishops prayed at the most important papal councils of Rome:

February 17 - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Lateran Cathedral (piazza San Giovanni); February 18 - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of St. Paul (San Paolo fuori le mura);

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## UGCC Synod of Bishops and RCC Bishops in Ukraine make visit to Vatican

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February 19 - Pontifical Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore (Termini); February 20 - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the tomb of St. Peter.

"The bishops' visit is primarily a pilgrimage to the tombs of the Apostles, from which the apostles' successors draw water from the very sources of Christianity, and a manifestation of ecclesial communion with the Holy See," said Bishop Dionisiy, Apostolic Visitor for Ukrainian Greek Catholics in Italy and Spain, responsible for the organization of the Synod's visit, the Information Department of the UGCC reports.

Note that such pilgrimages to the Holy See that the Catholic Church calls visita ad Limina, are made by bishops every 5 years in order to meet with the Holy Father as a symbol of unity with the Successor of Peter.

Along with the UGCC bishops, the bishops of RCC in Ukraine led by archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki also came to Vatican.

Adapted from an article on http://risu.org.ua

## POPE FRANCIS GREETED UKRAINIAN BISHOPS AND PILGRIMS IN ROME

18 February 2015

At St. Peter's Square, during general audience, Pope Francis welcomed Ukrainian bishops of the UGCC and RCC, who came to the Vatican for «ad limina» visit, as well as pilgrims from Ukraine, with a traditional Ukrainian Christian greeting "Glory to Jesus Christ!" and wished peace to this country.

"I sincerely congratulate bishops from Ukraine:" Glory to Jesus Christ! "(Slava Isusu Khrystu!) . I also direct this greeting to pilgrims accompanying them. Brothers and sisters, I know that among many wishes you pray for these days, there is a request for peace in Ukraine. In my heart I also have the same aspirations



and I join your prayers for lasting peace in your homeland. May God bless you! "- Francis Pope said.

http://risu.org.ua



## Pope Francis receives Bishops of Ukraine on ad limina visit

February 20, 2015

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis on Friday met with the Bishops of Ukraine, who are in Rome for their ad limina visit. The Bishops were led by Major-Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; and Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki of Lviv of the Latins.

In keeping with recent custom, the Holy Father's prepared remarks were delivered to Bishops at the beginning of the audience, giving Pope Francis the opportunity to speak personally with the assembled prelates.

Belowed, please find the complete English translation of Pope Francis' prepared remarks:

Your Beatitude, Archbishop, Dear Brother Bishops,

I welcome you into this house which is also your house. And you know this well, because the Successor of Peter has always welcomed with fraternal friendship the brothers from Ukraine, a land that is rightly considered the borderland between the heirs of Vladimir and Olga, and those of Adalbert and of the great Carolingian missions, as well as those that look back to the Apostles of the Slavs, Saints Cyril and Methodius. You are welcome, my very dear friends.

I have carefully learned of the many problems you face, as well as of your pastoral programs. I entrust them to God's Mother, and ours, that she might watch over them with tender love.

1. You find yourselves, as a country, in a situation of grave conflict, which has been going on for several months and continues to claim numerous innocent victims and to cause great suffering to the entire population. In this period, as I have assured you personally and conveyed by Cardinal envoys, I am very close to you with my prayers for the dead and for all those struck by violence, with the prayer to the Lord that He might speedily grant peace, and with the appeal to all the interested parties that they might apply the agreements reached by mutual accord and might be respectful toward the principle of international legality; in particular, that the recently signed truce might be observed and all the other commitments, which are the conditions for avoiding a resumption of hostilities.

I recognize the historical events that have marked vour land and are still present in the collective memory. They deal with questions that have a partially political base, and to which you are not called to give a direct response; but they are also socio-cultural realities and human tragedies that await your direct and positive contribution.

In such circumstances, what is important is that you listen attentively to the voices that come from the territories where the people entrusted to your pastoral care live. Listening to your people, you will be attentive to the

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Pope Francis meets with Ukrainian Bishops in Rome on their ad limina visit. - OSS\_ROM

## **Pope Francis receives Bishops of Ukraine on ad limina visit**

values that characterize it: encounter, collaboration, the ability to resolve controversies. In a few words: the search for possible peace. It is with charity, the divine love that springs from the heart of Christ, that you have made this ethical patrimony fruitful. I am well aware that, at the local level, you have specific arrangements and practices among you, the heirs of two legitimate spiritual traditions - the Eastern and the Latin - as well as with the other Christians present among you. As well as a duty, this is an honour that must be recognised.

2. On the national level, you are full citizens of your country, and so you have the right to express, even in the common way, your thought on its destiny - not in the sense of promoting a concrete political action, but in the indication and re-affirmation of the values that constitute the coagulating element Ukrainian society, of persevering in the tireless pursuit of harmony and of the common good, even in the face of grave and complex difficulties.

The Holy See is at your side, even in

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international forums, to ensure that your rights, your concerns, and the just evangelical values that animate you are understood. It is seeking, too, how to meet the pastoral necessities of those ecclesiastical structures that have found themselves facina new juridical questions.

3. The ongoing crisis in your country has, understandably, had serious repercussions in the life of families. To this is united the consequences of that misguided sense of economic liberty that has allowed the formation of a small group of people that are enormously enriched at the expense of the great majority of citizens. The presence of such a phenomenon has. unfortunately, contaminated in various ways even the public institutions. This has an generated unjust poverty in a generous and rich land.

Never tire of proposing to your fellow citizens the considerations that faith and pastoral responsibility suggest to you. The sense of justice and of truth, is moral before it is political, and this task is entrusted to your responsibility as Pastors. The more you are free ministers of the Church of Christ, so much more, even in your poverty, will you make yourselves defenders of the family, of the poor, of the unemployed, of the weak, of the sick, of the elderly pensioners, of invalids, of displaced persons.

I encourage you to renew, with the grace of God, your pastoral zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel in Ukrainian society, and to support another one with effective collaboration. May you always have the gaze of Christ, who saw the abundance of the harvest and asked to pray the Lord that He might send labourers (cf Mt 9:37-38). This signifies praying and working for vocations to priesthood and consecrated life, and at the same time attentive care for the formation of clerics. and of men and women religious, in the service of a more profound and understanding organic of the faith within the people of God.

4. I would like, too, to leave you a further reflection on the relations between you brothers in the episcopate. I recognise the complex historical events that weigh on mutual relations, as well as some aspects of a personal nature.

The fact that both episcopates are Catholic and are Ukrainian is indisputable, even in the diversity of rites and traditions. It is painful for me personally to hear that there are misunderstandings and injuries. There is need of a doctor - and this is Jesus Christ, whom vou both serve with generosity and with your whole hearts. You are a single body and, as was said to you in the past by Saint John Paul II, and by Benedict XVI, I in my turn urge you to find among yourselves a manner of welcoming one another and of sustaining one another generously in your apostolic labours.

The unity of the episcopate, as well as giving good witness to the People of God, renders an inestimable service to the Nation, both on the cultural and social plane and, above all, on the spiritual plane. You are united in fundamental values and you have in

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**FEBRUARY 22, 2015** 

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## **Pope Francis receives Bishops of Ukraine on ad limina visit**

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come the most precious treasures: the faith and the people of God. I see, therefore, of paramount importance the joint meetings of the Bishops of all the Churches sui iuris present in Ukraine. May you always be generous in speaking among yourselves as brothers!

Both as Greek-Catholics and as Latins you are sons of the Catholic Church, which in your land too was for a long time subject to martyrdom. The blood of your witnesses, who intercede for you from heaven, is a further motive that urges you to true communion of hearts. Unite your forces and support one another, making historical events a motive of sharing and unity. Rooted in the catholic communion, you will also be able to carry forward the ecumenical commitment with faith and patience, so that unity and cooperation between all Christians may grow.

5. I am certain that your decisions, in accord with the Successor of Peter, will be adequate to meet the expectations of your People. I invite you all to govern the communities entrusted to you ensuring as far as possible your presence and your closeness to the priests and to the people.

I am hopeful that you will be able to have respectful and fruitful relations with the public legitimate successors. Authorities.

I urge you to be attentive and considerate to the poor: they are your wealth. You are Pastors of a flock entrusted to you by Christ: may you be ever more conscious [of this], even in your internal organs of selfgovernance. These should be understood as instruments of communion and of prophecy. In this sense, I am hopeful that your intentions and your actions might always be oriented to the general wellbeing of the Churches entrusted to you. In this let the love of your communities guide you, in the same spirit that sustained the Apostles, of whom you are the

May the memory and the intercession of so many martyrs and saints, whom the Lord Jesus has raised up among you, support you in your work. May the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin reassure you on your journey of encounter with Christ Who comes, strengthening your purposes of communion and collaboration. And, while asking you to pray for me, I affectionately impart a special Apostolic Benediction upon you, upon your Communities, and upon the dear population of Ukraine.

http://en.radiovaticana. va

## UGCC Patriarch told the head of Vatican State Secretariat about the real developments in Ukraine

18 February 2015

On February 17, during the visit of the UGCC hierarchs to the Holy See – Ad Limina, the bishops of the UGCC Synod headed by Patriarch Sviatoslav visited the Vatican State Secretariat, as reported by the Information Department of the UGCC with reference to the press service of St Sophia community.

At the meeting with Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, head of the Vatican's state institution, the patriarch told



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## UGCC Patriarch told the head of Vatican State Secretariat about the real developments in Ukraine

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about the real situation in Ukraine and pastoral challenges facing the Church in war. In particular, he informed the Archbishop of the "Message of Synod of Bishops to priests on pastoral care in war."

In his address to the Vatican diplomatic representatives, the patriarch also stressed the need to tell the truth and defend the truth in any circumstances."This is what the citizens of Ukraine expect today from the Holy See as the highest moral authority," he added.

After noon, the Divine Liturgy at St John Lateran Basilica was celebrated. In his address to the faithful who assembled for prayer the patriarch said that the bishops came to the Holy Father to tell him the truth about aggression that Ukraine sustains today.

"Once my predecessor, Metropolitan Hryhoriy Tsamblak came here to tell the Christians of the West about the Mongol-Tatar invasion and today we deem it our duty to tell the world the truth about what is happening in Ukraine," the patriarch said.

http://risu.org.ua/

## Divine Liturgy for Peace in Ukraine offered at Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major

Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Sviatoslav Shevchuk presided at a Divine Liturgy for Peace in Ukraine in the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major on Thursday afternoon February 19th. The Liturgy was con-celebrated with the other Ukrainian Metropolitans, Archbishops, and Bishops, who are in Rome on their ad limina visit. Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, was also at the Liturgy.

Adapted from an article on Vatican Radio Facebook page.



Photo: https://www.facebook.com/pontificioistitutoucraino





## March 2015 - Березня 2015

### **Happy Birthday!**

### 3 Днем народження!

March 3: Rev. Msgr. James Melnic March 6: Rev. Leonid Malkov, C.S.s.R. March 7: Rev. Paul Labinsky March 7: Rev. Walter Pasicznyk March 12: Rev. Volodymyr Baran, C.S.s.R. March 13: Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo March 19: Rev. Vasyl Vladyka

May the Good Lord Continue to Guide You and Shower You with His Great Blessings. Mnohaya Lita!

Нехай Добрий Господь Тримає Вас у Своїй Опіці та Щедро Благословить Вас.



### Congratulations on your Anniversary of Priesthood!

### Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

March 5: V. Rev. Archmandrite Joseph Lee (45th Anniversary) March 14: Rev. Vasyl Vladyka (23rd Anniversary) March 20: Rev. Mykola Ivanov (10th Anniversary) March 24: Rev. Deacon Paul Makar (28th Anniversary) March 30: Very Rev. Archpr. David Clooney (51st Anniversary) March 31: Rev. John Wysochansky (58th Anniversary)

May God Grant You Many Happy and Blessed Years of Service in the Vineyard of Our Lord!

Нехай Бог Обдарує Багатьма Благословенними Роками Служіння в Господньому Винограднику!

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### **FEBRUARY 22, 2015**





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